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Maleta Smith



Feb 20, 2019

Subject: Petition Against the Duke Energy Rate Increase

Dear Commissioners:

As a Duke Energy electric customer, I encourage you to closely examine the Duke Energy electric rate proposal (2018-319-e) when it comes before you, Specifically, I am concerned that:

Duke Energy's proposal to increase the basic facilities charge, a fixed cost from \$8.29 to over \$28. This would make this mandatory fee one of the highest in the country and much higher than the other investor-owned utility in South Carolina which recently lowered its fixed cost.

The increase in this mandatory fee takes away customer control over my energy bill robs me of the full benefit of energy conservation efforts. It is important that you protect older consumers who may live on a fixed income.

Share your own thoughts with the SC Public Service Commission:

A kWh rate increase is preferable to a hike in the basic facilities charge, because actual usage is more controllable by a consumer. Raising the bfc will result in thousands of secondary non-residential meters being turned off because no one wants to pay \$30 per month before a single kWh is used. This could potentially Increase crime by reducing the number of working security cameras in place on workshops and garages. Raise the rate, not the bfc.

Sincerely,
Maleta Smith